

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 197

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Donald Lee Kemp, Jr., of  
Ashland City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of  
the passing of Donald Lee Kemp, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Kemp was an exemplary public servant and consummate  
professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in  
numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of Donald and Ruth Roy Kemp, Donnie Kemp was born in Nashville  
on April 11, 1955; he and his family moved to Cheatham County when he was in the third grade,  
and he soon settled in to his new home, playing Little League baseball as a child and later  
football at Cheatham County High School, from which he graduated in 1973; and

WHEREAS, it was during high school that Donnie Kemp met his future wife, Jackie  
Jenkins, and the high school sweethearts married when he was twenty and she was eighteen;  
and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kemp was a well-known and highly respected businessman who  
operated Kemp's Foodland for more than thirty years; he regularly gave back to his community,  
at times even paying his customers' grocery bills, and children who made the honor roll knew  
they would receive a freshly baked chocolate chip cookie as a reward for their scholastic efforts;  
and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the grocery business, Donnie Kemp and his wife owned  
and managed commercial and residential properties through their business, Kemp, Inc.; their  
success in business was used to support a number of philanthropic interests, from local Little  
League teams to international Christian organizations; and

WHEREAS, a man of devout faith, Mr. Kemp was an active member and former board member of First Church Nashville, and he served on the boards of Center House Ministries and World Revivals, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Kemp enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-five years, Jackie Jenkins Kemp, and his daughters, Valerie Kemp, Melinda (Scott) Ruffin, and Joanna (John) Melton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kemp will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his grandchildren, Jackson Kemp, Greyson Ruffin, Dylan Ruffin, Mary Ella Melton, Naomi Melton, and Eliza Melton; his mother-in-law, Mary Grey Jenkins; his aunts, Jean Kemp and Nancy Outlawe; his uncle, Hubert Cummins; and a host of extended family and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Tommy Kemp, and a grandson, John Lee Melton; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Kemp leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Donald Lee Kemp, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Kemp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.